

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 /067 W

----- 003205

R 021356Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6508

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 02645

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IS EG

SUBJ: RABIN ON SINAI NEGOTIATIONS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SUMMARY: DURING APRIL 29-30 TOUR OF SOUTHER SINAI, PM RABIN REAFFIRMED ISRAELI INTENTION (1) TO RETAIN SHARM EL-SHEIKH AND LAND BRIDGE TO IT, EVEN IN EVENT OF PEACE AGREEMENT, AND (2) TO RELINQUISH ABU RODEIS IN RETURN FOR " SIGNIFICANT MOVE TOWARDS PEACE". END SUMMARY.

2. DURING APRIL 29-30 TOUR OF SOUTHERB SINAI PM RABIN GAVE INTERVIEW IN WHICH HE REITERATED GOI POLICY ON SHARM EL-SHEIKH AND ABU RODEIS. FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TEXT OF RELEVANT PORTIONS OF INTERVIEW AS TRANSLATED ABD DISSEMINATED BY GOVERNAMENT PRESS OFFICE.

3. BEGIN QUOTE:

Q. IS SHARM EL SHEIK NEGOTIABLE?

A. WELL, ISRAEL'S POSITION IS THAT EVEN IN A CONTEXT OF PEACE AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISREL, ISRAEL NEEDS CONTROL OF SHARM EL SHEIK. TOO MANY TIMES IN THE PAST  
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THE FACT THAT WE WERE NOT THERE BROUGHT ABOUT WAR. IN

'56....IN 67. THE ONLY GUARANTEE AGAINST ANOTHER BLOCK-  
ADE IS ISRAEL'S PRESENCE IN SHARM EL SHEIK.

Q. DOES PRESENCE MEAN SOVEREIGNTY?

A. I'VE STESSED ONE POINT....PRESENCE, PRESENCE AND  
CONTROL.

Q. HOW ABOUT SANTA KATARINA? ITS VERY IMPORTANT TO  
RELIGIOUS JEWS BECAUSE OF THE ASSOCIATIONS WITH MT. SINAI.  
IS THAT NEGOTIABLE?

A. WELL IT IS NEGOTIABLE.

Q. AND ABU RODIS?

A. AS YOU KNOW, IN THE LAST EFFORT OF DR. KISSINGER  
TO BRING ABOUT AN INTERIM AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND  
ISRAEL, ISRAEL WAS READY TO GIVE UP THE OIL FIELDS  
AT ABU RODEIS.

Q. DOES THE FACT THAT YOU ARE NOW PUTTING IN A LARGE  
EFFORT IN EXPLORATION AND SEARCH FOR NEW SOURCES OF  
OIL AT ABU RODEIS INDICATE YOU ARE NOT VERY OPTIMISTIC  
ABOUT AN AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT?

A. NO THIS IS NOT THE CASE.WE HAVE DECIDED TO WORK  
ON TWO PARALLEL LINES. ON ONE, TO TRY EVERYTHIN  
TO BRING ABOUT PEACE, EITHER AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT  
OR TO MOVE TOWARDS PEACE BY STEPS. BY SIGNIFICANT MOVES  
TOWARDS PEACE I'M TALKING ABOUT AN INTERIM AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISREL THAT WILL GIVE A SIGNIFICANT  
MOVE TOWARDS PEACE. ISRAEL IS READY TO GIVE UP ABU RODEIS.  
BUT THE SECOND LINE IS, AS LONG AS WE ARE THERE TO DO  
EVERYTHING TO BRING ABOUT EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION  
OF OIL THAT EXISTS THERE. END QUOTE.

4. MAARIV JUNE 2 QUOTES RABIN AS ALSO SAYING FOLLOWING  
DURING SINAI TOUR: " IN 1968 THE GOVERNMENT ADOPTED A  
RESOLUTION THAT THE STATE OF ISRAEL WOULD INSIST THAT,  
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IF A PEACE SETTLEMENT IS REACHED, ISRELI CONTROL OVER  
OPHIRA AND A TERRITORIAL CONTIGUITY TO IT WOULD CONTINUE.  
SINCE THEN THIS DECISION, WHICH SERVES AS A GUIDLINE  
TO GOVERNMENT POLICY, HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED." END  
UNCLASSIFIED

5. COMMENT: BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. WE SEE NO CHANGE IN  
GOI POLICY IN RABIN INTERVIEW. WE BELIEVE, IN FACT,

THAT HIS FORMULATION HAS BEEN GIVEN OFFICIAL IMPRIMATUR  
OF GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE PRECISELY TO UNDERLINE FACT  
THAT POLICY, ON SHARM EL-SHEIKH IN PARTICULAR, HAS NOT  
RPT NOT CHANGED. FEW WEEKS AGO HAARETZ EDITOR  
TRIED TO FIND SIGNIFICANCE IN FACT THAT MINISTER-WITHOUT-  
PORTFOLIO GALILI IN RADIO INTERVIEW FAILED TO SPECIFY  
SHARM EL-SHEIKH AS AMONG AREAS OF SINAI THAT ISRAEL PLANNED  
TO RETAIN IN EVENT OF PEACE SETTLEMENT. ALTHOUGH GALILI  
ISSUED IMMEDIATE CLARIFICATION THAT OMISSION HAD NOT BEEN  
SIGNAL OF POLICY CHANGE, EVENT CAUSED TEMPORARY FLURRY IN  
PRESS. CONSTANCY OF ISRELI POLICY TOWARD SHARM EL-SHEIKH  
HAS NOW BEEN CONFIRMED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL. IN CONVERSATION  
ON MAY 3, HEAD OF PM'S OFFICE, MORDECHAI GAZIT, ALSO  
STRESSED THIS AND NOTED THAT GOI POSITION (PRESENCE AND  
CONTROL ) FALLS WELL SHORT OF ANY CLAIM THAT IT REQUIRES  
SOVEREIGNTY OVER AREA.

6. WE DO NOT HOLD COPY OF 1968 CABINET RESOLUTION TO WHICH  
RABIN REFERRED. WE CAN, HOWEVER, TRACE GOI ANNOUNCED  
POLICY TOWARD SHARM EL-SHEIKH BACK TO AUGUST 1969, AT  
WHICH TIME LABOR PARTY AS PART OF ITS ELECTION PLATFORM  
REACHED " ORAL AGREEMENT" STATING FOLLOWING:" ...FREEDOM  
OF NAVIGATION FROM EILAT SOUTHWARDS WILL BE ENSURED BY  
ISRAELI FORCES WHICH WILL CONTROL THE STRAITS. THIS REGION  
WILL BE CONNECTED TO ISRAEL BY TERRITORIAL CONTIGUITY CORRESPONDING  
TO ITS SECURITY DESIGNATION..." END CONFIDENTIAL.  
VELIOTES

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## Message Attributes

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